General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 July 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.49/Rev.1)*]

70/293. Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/66 B of 5 December 1980, in which it proclaimed the 1980s as the first Industrial Development Decade for Africa, its resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989, in which it proclaimed the period 1991–2000 as the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, its resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992, in which it adjusted the period for the programme for the Second Decade to cover the years 1993–2002, and its resolution 57/297 of 20 December 2002 on the Second Decade,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which reflects the importance of industrial development to the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal 9, Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, and its interrelated targets,

Recalling further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and in which the General Assembly stressed the critical importance of industrial development for developing countries, in particular African countries, as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification and value addition,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted on 13 May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[1] which emphasizes the importance of building productive capacity as a critical enabler for the development and graduation of the least developed countries, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted on 5 November 2014 at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

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Developing Countries,[2] and considering the fact that 33 out of the 48 least developed countries and 16 out of the 32 landlocked developing countries are African countries,

Recognizing the importance of supporting the African Union Agenda 2063, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[3] the Group of Eight Africa Action Plan of June 2002, in which the Group of Eight welcomed the adoption of the New Partnership, and regional initiatives, such as the African Union Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, the African Productive Capacity Initiative, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative, the Africa Mining Vision and the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative, which underscore the importance of industrialization for sustainable structural economic transformation,

Taking note of the outcome of the eighteenth Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held in Durban, South Africa, from 24 to 28 October 2008, at which the implementation strategy for the African Union Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa was endorsed, and taking note also of the outcome of the twentieth Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held in Nairobi from 10 to 14 June 2013, in which a call was made for the need for the accelerated industrialization of African countries in the context of the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note also of the declaration on the launch of the negotiations for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 14 and 15 June 2015, in which the Heads of State and Government of the African Union reaffirmed their commitment to increase intra-African trade through the establishment of a continental free trade area that would foster economic growth and equitable development and would support integration through trade liberalization, industrialization and infrastructure development towards the full implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community of 3 June 1991 (the Abuja Treaty),[4]

Taking note further of the Lima Declaration: towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at its fifteenth session, held in Lima from 2 to 6 December 2013,[5] in which the General Conference requested the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to assist Member States in achieving enhanced levels of inclusive and sustainable industrial development,

Taking note of the outcome of the joint high-level event organized by the African Union Commission, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa on the theme "Operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Africa's industrialization", held on the margins of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, on 26 September 2015, at which organizers called upon the Assembly to adopt a resolution for a third industrial development decade for Africa in 2016,

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[2] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[3] A/57/304, annex.

[4] A/46/651, annex.

[5] See GC.15/INF/4, resolution GC.15/Res.1.

Noting that, despite the above-mentioned resolutions, decisions, declarations and initiatives, Africa remains the poorest and the most vulnerable region in the world, and noting also the need for the continent to take urgent action to advance sustainable industrialization as a key element of furthering economic diversification and value addition, creating jobs and thus reducing poverty and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming the importance of industrialization in supporting Africa's own efforts towards sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and accelerated development,

Underlining the need for the sustainable industrialization of Africa and the objective of introducing the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

1. *Proclaims* the period 2016–2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

2. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[3] the Economic Commission for Africa and, specifically, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to develop, operationalize and lead the implementation of the programme for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in accordance with its mandate and through voluntary contributions, taking into account the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its tenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2008, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[6] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[7] and the African Union Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan, in coordination with other relevant stakeholders, including regional economic communities and national entities;

3. *Encourages* the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to mobilize adequate resources for the implementation of the Third Decade;

4. *Reiterates* that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, bearing in mind the need for their development efforts to be supported by an enabling international economic environment;

5. *Invites*, as appropriate, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as the United Nations specialized agency for industrialization, in close collaboration with the African Union, to scale up its technical assistance to African countries in accordance with its mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development for the successful implementation of the Third Decade;

6. *Also invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to foster partnerships, as appropriate, with other relevant entities in the United Nations development system, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the

[6] Resolution 70/1.

[7] Resolution 69/313, annex.

World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, and to promote the necessary linkages to develop joint initiatives in favour of industrialization, including technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, access to information and communications technology, productive diversification, agribusiness value chain development, trade, capacity-building, renewable energy and energy efficiency, industrial policy, special economic zones and industrial parks, action on climate change and human capital development, while also strengthening public-private partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including those in the public and the private sectors, civil society organizations and academia;

7. *Calls for* enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of Africa's industrialization, including through the implementation of the Third Decade, and reaffirms that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

8. *Invites* the international community, particularly bilateral and multilateral partners, the United Nations system, global and regional financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the New Development Bank and the African Development Bank, in accordance with their respective mandates, to ensure full support for the implementation of programmes for the Third Decade at the national and subregional levels;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to support, within existing resources, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in its assistance to the African Union, African countries and regional organizations in the implementation of programmes for the Third Decade;

10. *Requests* the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to submit to the General Assembly, through the Secretary-General, a periodic progress report on the implementation of the Third Decade.

112th plenary meeting
25 July 2016

United Nations A/RES/70/294

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 23 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 July 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.56)*]

70/294. Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 69/231 of 19 December 2014, in which it decided to conduct a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[1] as well as its resolutions 70/216 of 22 December 2015 and 70/261 of 15 April 2016,

1. *Endorses* the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Turkey for hosting the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review from 27 to 29 May 2016 and for providing all the necessary support.

112th plenary meeting
25 July 2016

Annex

Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives participating in the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

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Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, are gathered here in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016 to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action,[2] to share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues, to reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries made in Istanbul, Turkey, and to further strengthen the global partnership for development for the least developed countries in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the Paris Agreement,[5] adopted by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[6] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.[7]

2. We recognize the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review as an opportunity to highlight the concrete measures, initiatives, partnerships and actions that various stakeholders have undertaken to date to support the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to launch other concrete measures, initiatives and partnerships, individually or collectively, that have the potential to further progress the implementation of the Programme of Action, building on the momentum of recent and relevant United Nations meetings, agendas and conferences and the decisions adopted therein.

3. We recognize that over the past few decades the world has witnessed remarkable socioeconomic progress, with most of the Millennium Development Goals and targets achieved globally. However, not all countries have fully shared in this global progress. Performances among the least developed countries were mixed. The majority of the least developed countries, which constitute the poorest and most vulnerable group of countries, were not able to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals. Nevertheless, many of the least developed countries have adopted stronger policies, strengthened governance and achieved substantial gains in reducing the prevalence of extreme poverty and improved health and education outcomes. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals was slowest in the least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations; those countries require context-specific approaches, including targeted national policies and international support.

4. We recognize that, despite the many challenges and constraints, the least developed countries represent an enormous human and natural resource potential for world economic growth, welfare, prosperity and food and energy security.

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[2] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[3] Resolution 70/1.

[4] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[7] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

Therefore, a strengthened global partnership that effectively addresses the special needs of the least developed countries, including children, young people and women, will contribute to the cause of peace, prosperity, poverty eradication and sustainable development for all.

5. We reaffirm our commitment to the full, effective and timely implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. We also reaffirm our commitment to the full and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and our support for mainstreaming it into the national development policies and programmes of the least developed countries. We also reaffirm our determination to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, in a spirit of global solidarity, focused in particular on the eradication of poverty and promotion of inclusive growth and the implementation of social protection systems, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable.

I. State of progress and lessons learned in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action

6. We note that many of the least developed countries have made considerable progress in achieving positive and sustainable development outcomes, in spite of significant challenges and constraints. For many of them, growth performance and prospects have been good on a sustained basis. Most of the least developed countries have significantly increased domestic resource mobilization and use for sustainable development. National ownership and leadership at the country level is essential for sustained progress in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

7. We are concerned that, in the context of the overall slowdown in the international economy, the least developed countries as a group are experiencing a slowdown of their economies, with growth rates falling from 5.1 per cent in 2014 to an estimated 4.5 per cent in 2015,[8] which is significantly lower than the growth rate achieved during 2001–2010 and falls far short of the Sustainable Development Goal target of at least 7 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth per annum in the near term, and those that are highly dependent on commodity exports have seen a pronounced decline in their export earnings and GDP growth.

8. We recognize that many of the least developed countries continue to face multiple structural challenges and constraints, including narrow production and export bases, stagnant trade and investment flows, diminishing productivity growth, weak land and natural resource governance, and widespread poverty, hunger and malnutrition. These long-standing challenges are compounded by new and emerging challenges, such as climate change, increased incidences of natural disasters and public health emergencies, conflicts, declining commodity prices and rising capital outflows. Without a structural transformation that tackles institutional and capacity constraints, the least developed countries will remain vulnerable to various economic, social and environmental shocks.

9. Continued robust external support, including through official development assistance (ODA), is necessary to complement domestic resources and national policies and programmes to effectively assist each of the least developed countries in addressing these important issues. We recognize the important contribution of the existing preferences extended to the least developed countries.

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[8] *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.II.C.2).

10. We recognize that swift action in areas related to productive capacity, infrastructure and energy, agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development, economy, trade and investment, good governance at all levels, human development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, financing for development, science, technology and innovation, migration and remittances, and resilience-building are necessary to realize the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promise of leaving no one behind.

General objectives, goals and targets

11. We recognize that, while the least developed countries have made significant efforts towards achieving the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action, a lot still remains to be done by them and their development partners. There is a need to foster progress across all sectors. We reaffirm our commitment to give special attention to the least developed countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Graduation

12. We congratulate those countries that have graduated from least developed country status and welcome the fact that many of the least developed countries are meeting the criteria for graduation and many others have expressed their aspirations to graduate. We note with concern that, since the least developed country category was established in 1971, only four countries have officially graduated. Based on current trends, concerted and revitalized efforts will be required to enable half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020, as foreseen in the Istanbul Programme of Action. Particular attention should be given to the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status, consistent with their transition strategy, taking into account each country's particular development situation.

Productive capacity

13. We recognize that increasing productive capacity leads to inclusive economic growth and social development and is vital to the achievement of sustainable development and for building resilience. During the past five years, limited progress was achieved in production diversification and value addition as well as in the effective participation of the least developed countries in regional and global value chains, which are critical for those countries in reversing their marginalization, building productive capacities, accelerating structural transformation and generating full and productive employment and decent work for all with quick impact on poverty eradication. This situation requires strategic policy interventions at the subnational, national, regional and international levels, as well as at the sectoral level. In this regard, regional cooperation and integration can play a catalytic role.

Infrastructure and energy

14. We stress that the development of sustainable and resilient physical infrastructure, the promotion of sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation are important prerequisites for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. A significant amount of investment and technology development is essential, including through public-private partnerships, innovative financing and regional integration, supported by appropriate and transparent national policies, practices, institutions and regulations that foster a strong investment climate. Enhanced financial and technical support by development

partners for infrastructure development and management in the least developed countries, as well as continued support for those countries' efforts to strengthen the underlying investment climate, promote science, technology and innovation and facilitate the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and technology for the development of infrastructure under mutually agreed terms, also remain crucial for infrastructure development in the least developed countries.

15. We emphasize that the acute energy gap faced by the least developed countries is a severe constraint on their structural transformation. Access to energy is often not provided because of lack of finance, technology, infrastructure for the generation and supply of energy, appropriate regulation and economic and technical skills. Skill development and improvement of the capacity of local enterprise to deliver good-quality products and services on an economically sustainable basis are also important to establish inclusive energy systems that also reach rural areas and the poorest part of the population. Addressing these issues will be crucial in providing access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Such access is a key development enabler and multiplier, which can foster private sector development, strengthen productive capacity-building, expand trade and promote access to better social services and food security. Ensuring technological progress is also key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as providing productive employment and decent work for all and promoting energy efficiency.

Agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development

16. We acknowledge that progress in the development of the agricultural sector and related industries, which employs more than half of the population in most of the least developed countries, is critical for sustainable development.

17. We recognize that low agricultural productivity and the availability and affordability of safe food remain major challenges in many of the least developed countries. Some 210 million people in the least developed countries, predominantly in rural areas, do not have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Moreover, the least developed countries are urbanizing rapidly, and the proportion of urban residents who experience hunger and malnutrition is growing. The agriculture sector in the least developed countries continues to be affected by structural factors such as insufficient public and private investment in physical infrastructure and in research and agricultural extension services, limited access to markets, lack of secure land tenure, particularly for smallholder farmers and women, limited capacity-building, slow progress in regulatory and policy reforms and in scientific and technological development, lack of access to financial services, including insurance, poor investment climate, inadequate support to enhance the situation of women in rural areas, trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, and public stockholding in a manner that adversely affects food security, as well as periodic economic shocks such as price fluctuations. We note that less than 7 per cent of total ODA going to the least developed countries is allocated to agriculture. Furthermore, agriculture development has been suffering from the adverse impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, less predictable weather patterns, soil degradation, salinity intrusion, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, declining water availability and degrading water quality due to the increasing frequency of droughts and floods, and soil and water contamination. We reaffirm our commitment to work together to address these challenges in the least developed countries. We also note that integrated water resource management and intersectoral approaches among water, food and energy to increase synergies and manage trade-offs are essential.

Economy, trade and investment

18. We are concerned that the growth rates of the least developed countries have fallen since 2011, and we emphasize the importance of reversing this trend. As identified in the Istanbul Programme of Action, trade and investment are major drivers of economic growth, employment generation and structural transformation. The challenge is also one of fostering inclusive growth, including through the empowerment of all women and girls and achieving gender equality, while promoting sustainable development, as the pace of reduction of poverty has not been commensurate with the economic growth rate.

19. We note some improvement in market access for products of the least developed countries in some developing countries during the past five years. We express our concern that the least developed countries' exports remained highly concentrated in a few primary products vulnerable to commodity price volatility and to exogenous economic and environmental shocks. The share of the least developed countries in world exports remained stagnant, standing in 2014 at 1.1 per cent and dropping to 0.97 per cent in 2015, a level that is far behind the objective of doubling their share of global exports by 2020, mentioned in the Istanbul Programme of Action. We acknowledge that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system is key to promoting export diversification, trade and economic growth.

20. We are concerned that the share of the least developed countries in global foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows remains virtually unchanged from 2013 at 1.9 per cent and that FDI in the least developed countries remains concentrated in a small number of mineral-rich economies. We stress that economic diversification and a positive enabling environment for investments at all levels, as well as stronger and more focused policies and measures by the least developed countries, home countries of FDI, international organizations and other stakeholders, can substantially increase FDI flows to the least developed countries in the coming years.

21. We recognize that full and productive employment and decent work for all remains a central objective of macroeconomic and fiscal policies so that the benefits of growth reach all people, especially the poor, with a focus on mutually supportive strategies that lead to the rapid expansion of productive employment in the least developed countries and optimize the contribution of women and young people to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Good governance at all levels and human development

22. We recognize that the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance, transparency, democratic participation, the rule of law at the national and international levels, human development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are essential to achieving peace, prosperity and sustainable development in the least developed countries. Since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the least developed countries have made some progress in these areas, yet considerable efforts are still needed. Several of the least developed countries have joined the Open Government Partnership, and we welcome their commitments to making their Governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. Forty-two of the least developed countries have become parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. [9] Substantial progress towards

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

achieving education for all at the primary level has been made, including gender parity for one third of the least developed countries. Nearly 20 per cent of all parliamentarians in the least developed countries are women. We also recognize that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities.

23. We recognize that qualified and skilled human resources can make important contributions to sustainable development in the least developed countries. While much progress has been made towards achieving education for all at the primary and secondary levels, much more remains to be done to ensure that the over 24 million children of primary school age not in school and the over 22 million out-of-school adolescents of lower secondary school age in the least developed countries have access to quality education. Strengthened efforts by the least developed countries and their development partners are also needed to ensure that education is of good quality and that it provides all learners with the skills needed to access employment and decent work.

24. We note that greater efforts are also needed to better engage and empower young people. They need opportunities to learn, work and participate in decision-making processes and to contribute to building inclusive and peaceful societies that are free from violence. Particular efforts are needed to ensure that all young people, including girls, enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels: early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training. In this regard, we note with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

25. We recognize that further efforts are needed to remove the barriers that women and girls face regarding gender-based violence, access to safe learning environments, quality education, criminal justice systems, health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, safe drinking water and sanitation and equal rights with men to economic opportunities such as employment, decent work, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, entrepreneurship, participation in trade, access to and ownership of productive resources, including land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology. Women and girls are also more vulnerable to climate change impacts. We must work to strengthen our attention to the full and effective participation of women and girls in decision-making at all levels as well as the elimination of discrimination, all forms of violence and harmful practices against women and girls, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

26. We reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of the human rights of all people are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. We reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies.

Financing for development

27. We recognize that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable

Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization underscored by the principle of national ownership and the important contribution of private investment, including FDI, for the achievement of sustainable development. While the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed.

28. We note that, as a result of cooperation between the United Nations, the Group of 20, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, there has been international progress in identifying and addressing the base erosion and profit shifting challenges for developing countries and ensuring that all countries, including the least developed countries, can take advantage of increases in tax transparency and exchange of information, such as by implementing the new international standard of automatic exchange of information.

29. We are also concerned by the impact that illicit financial flows have in draining resources away from the least developed countries. Illicit financial flows have an adverse impact on domestic resource mobilization and on the sustainability of public finances. The activities that underlie illicit financial flows, such as corruption, embezzlement, fraud, tax evasion, safe havens that create incentives for transfer of stolen assets abroad, money-laundering and illegal exploitation of natural resources, are also detrimental to development. We emphasize the importance of working together, including through increased international cooperation to stem corruption and identify, freeze and recover stolen assets and return them to their countries of origin, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

30. We recognize that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically. For the least developed countries as a group, ODA remains the largest source of external financing. The decline in ODA going to the least developed countries during the past years was a worrisome trend, and the level of 0.09 per cent of gross national income (GNI) attained in 2014 remained below the relevant 0.15–0.20 per cent target to which many developed countries have committed. In that context, we note the 4 per cent real-term increase in bilateral ODA to the least developed countries in 2015 and the projection that the proportion of ODA to those countries will continue to rise in 2016–2019, suggesting that developed countries are reversing the decline in ODA to the least developed countries in line with the commitment by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development at its high-level meeting in 2014 to reverse the declining trend of ODA to the least developed countries. We note with concern that FDI to those countries has remained constant as a share of global FDI and concentrated in a few countries and sectors. We also note the growing importance of remittances.

31. We welcome the recent decision by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to increase access to its concessional resources by 50 per cent for the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

32. We acknowledge the debt distress and sustainability challenges faced by some of the least developed countries. We recognize that the long-term sustainability of debt of those countries depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, sound public financial management at all levels, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and overcoming structural development problems.

Science, technology and innovation

33. We recognize that the Istanbul Programme of Action recommends that the least developed countries and development partners make concerted efforts to build science, technology and innovation capacity so that those countries can find and harness innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges and promote endogenous capacity for research and development to address the structural impediments to achieving sustainable development that those countries face. Despite the importance of science, technology and innovation for promoting positive development outcomes, the least developed countries have not made significant progress in this field since the adoption of the Programme of Action. We are concerned that fewer than 7 per cent of households in the least developed countries have access to the Internet, that many of the least developed countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled, and we emphasize the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide. In this regard, we stress the growing importance of science, technology and innovation for promoting positive development outcomes, including in the least developed countries.

Resilience-building

34. We are deeply concerned that, owing to significant capacity constraints, the least developed countries are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, salinity intrusion, glacier lake outburst floods, ocean acidification, and the rise in frequency as well as impacts of natural and man-made disasters, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. We are deeply worried that an increase in global temperature, sea-level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts can seriously affect coastal areas and low-lying coastal least developed countries. We are concerned that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change and other environmental issues.

35. We note that the Istanbul Programme of Action highlights the vulnerability of the least developed countries to a variety of shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and emphasize that these vulnerabilities threaten to undermine many of the development gains that those countries have made over the past decade. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 has recognized the higher vulnerability and risk levels of the least developed countries, which often exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. We reiterate that such vulnerability requires strengthened international cooperation and ensuring genuine, durable regional and international partnerships to improve their resilience. We also note the importance of adopting and implementing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans aimed at preventing the creation of risk, reducing existing risk and strengthening economic, social, health and environmental resilience. We welcome the fact that many of the least developed countries have communicated intended nationally determined contributions and designed and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies embedded in national development plans with a focus on preventive measures and a multi-stakeholder approach. However, their efforts have had limited success so far, given their capacity and resource constraints, including at the subnational level. Although most of the least developed countries have developed some form of social protection programme, coverage tends to be very limited.

36. In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of addressing these vulnerabilities and are taking steps in various multilateral forums to build resilience to many of the multiple crises and other emerging challenges described in the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as the International Development Association Crisis Response Window of the World Bank, which helps countries to respond to natural disasters and other crises, the Least Developed Countries Fund, to which donors announced contributions amounting to $248 million during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and initiatives of the International Monetary Fund, such as the temporary waiver of interest rates on Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust loans and the provision of grants for debt relief under the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, which also play an important role in building the resilience of the least developed countries. Measures at both the national and international levels need to be enhanced to mitigate and manage risks and address the vulnerability of the least developed countries to various kinds of shocks and crises.

37. We recognize that the least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and those experiencing political instability, or unable to deliver basic State services, have specific structural challenges and require context-specific approaches, including targeted national policies and international support measures to address these challenges and to support peacebuilding, State-building activities and sustainable development. We take note of the principles set out in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States by the Group of Seven Plus, countries that are, or have been, affected by conflict.

38. We note the convening of the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity-Building in the Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou, Benin, from 28 to 31 July 2014, the Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries on Graduation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Kathmandu from 16 to 18 December 2014, and the Ministerial Meeting of the African Least Developed Countries on Structural Transformation, Graduation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Milan, Italy, from 8 to 10 June 2015.

II. Looking forward and recommendations

General recommendations

39. Planning at both the national and international levels is necessary to realize the concrete objectives contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action. We encourage the least developed countries to continue to integrate the Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development plans and their development partners to continue to integrate the Programme of Action into their national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate.

40. We reiterate the principles that guide the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action: country ownership and leadership; an integrated approach; genuine partnerships; result orientation; peace and security, development and human rights; equity; voice and representation; and the balanced role of the State and market considerations.

41. We welcome the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 underscore that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, deserve special attention and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries and we recall the decision contained in

the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries. We underline the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels and encourage coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation.

42. We also recognize that genuine, effective and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships can play an important role in advancing sustainable development. We will encourage knowledge-sharing and the promotion of cooperation and partnerships between stakeholders, including between Governments, firms, academia and civil society, in sectors contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and in support of country-driven priorities and strategies. At the same time, we commit to pursue an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors to make the global partnership for sustainable development more effective.

43. We encourage national statistical capacities in the least developed countries to be strengthened, with the support and cooperation of the international community in order to increase significantly the use and availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, which are necessary for efficient policymaking and an effective follow-up and review. We encourage the least developed countries to carry out a stocktaking exercise to assess current statistics and data availability for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and local levels, identify data gaps and build statistical capacity to ensure that data for statistics and monitoring of the Goals are available and reliable. Development partners and relevant international organizations should, and the partnerships are encouraged to, provide international cooperation, including through technical and financial support to the least developed countries in this endeavour.

Productive capacity-building

44. We recognize the importance of building productive capacity as a critical enabler for the development and graduation of the least developed countries and call upon those countries and their development partners to ensure enhanced focus on policies and means to address productive capacity-building. We further recognize that private capital flows, in particular FDI, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries. We call upon the least developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and upon development partners to continue to provide enhanced financial and technical support to those countries to develop productive capacities, including for enhancing the management capacity of the least developed countries. We note that international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank provide capacity development to the least developed countries through direct technical assistance and training for country authorities and we invite them to further strengthen such support, responding to the demands and needs of those countries, within the framework of existing commitments, in accordance with their national development policies and strategies.

Graduation

45. We recall General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries. We underscore that the efforts of the least

developed countries towards graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results.

46. We urge both the least developed countries and their development partners to undertake more concerted and ambitious efforts to achieve the aim of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. It is also important that graduation be seen not as a cut-off point, but as a resolute move towards better and sustained economic development and virtuous and inclusive structural transformation. We emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on a national smooth transition strategy, elaborated by each graduated country. We encourage development and trading partners and the United Nations system to continue their support for the implementation of transition strategies for the least developed countries, as well as for smooth transition for graduated countries and to avoid any abrupt reductions in either ODA or technical assistance provided to the graduated countries.

47. We invite development and trading partners to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status, or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction, on a bilateral basis.

48. We recognize the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries. We recommend that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas.

Infrastructure and energy

49. We recall the goal in the Istanbul Programme of Action to increase total primary energy supply per capita in the least developed countries to the same level as in other developing countries; significantly increase the share of electricity generation through renewable energy sources by 2020; and enhance capacities in energy production, trade and distribution with the aim of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. We recognize that financing for infrastructure and universal access to modern energy, including at the subnational level, remains a major challenge for the least developed countries.

50. We also stress that special attention should be given to the least developed countries throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), as well as within the framework of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the recently held Sustainable Energy for All Forum and the Global Infrastructure Forum, with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 and to addressing the infrastructure needs of the least developed countries.

51. We call upon the development partners to continue to support efforts by the least developed countries to develop the energy sector in generation, distribution and energy efficiency, including in renewable energy, other clean energy sources and natural gas, inter alia, through enhanced financial and technical assistance and by facilitating private sector investment, in accordance with national priorities and needs. We underline that increasing substantially the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and increasing energy efficiency can support energy access in the least developed countries. Supporting off-grid solutions for access to electricity is

an effective and efficient way to improve the energy access situation of the poor. We will work to provide adequate support and facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services to the least developed countries.

52. We will embed resilient and quality infrastructure investment plans in our national sustainable development strategies, while also strengthening domestic enabling environments. We reaffirm our commitment to provide enhanced financial and technical support for infrastructure development in line with the least developed countries' sectoral and development needs and priorities and use concessional funds, where appropriate, to catalyse and leverage other sources of funding for infrastructure development and management. We will provide technical and financial support for the least developed countries to translate plans into concrete project pipelines, as well as for individual implementable projects, including for feasibility studies, the negotiation of complex contracts and project management.

53. We recommend that all forms of finance, tools and mechanisms, including domestic resources, private finance, ODA grants and other forms of international development cooperation, public-private partnerships, concessional and non-concessional loans, blended finance, special-purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments, pooled funding structures and other innovative approaches, be utilized. We invite the development finance institutions and the development partners to play a larger and more coordinated role in investing in infrastructure projects in the least developed countries, mitigating and sharing risks and ensuring guarantees.

Agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development

54. We support the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge and recommend increasing sustainable and responsible investment, both domestic and international, in sustainable agriculture and food security, the sustainable use of water resources, including through international public and private cooperation in rural and urban infrastructure, nutrition, secure land tenure, agricultural research and extension services, access to markets and to finance, especially for smallholder farmers, building irrigation facilities, technology development and transfer on mutually agreed terms, the promotion of resilient and sustainable agricultural practices and reducing food loss and waste. We reaffirm the commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and to increase the economic benefits to the least developed countries that are small island developing States and coastal countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism by 2030.

55. We furthermore commit to supporting strong economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national, regional and local development planning, including through an integrated approach to sustainable water management and strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. We will also endeavour to increase investments for effective actions to improve people's diets and nutrition, including in emergency situations, with particular emphasis on supporting access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

56. We recall our commitment to empower women in agriculture, including through women's access to and control over land and other productive assets.

57. We reaffirm the need to undertake necessary measures at the national and international levels to increase the agricultural productivity of the least developed countries. We take note of the existing regional frameworks on emergency food reserve mechanisms and recognize the importance of food security in emergency situations and the need for building resilience. In this regard, we invite the international community to consider enhancing such cooperation at the regional level, particularly for the least developed countries. We will continue to explore ways to improve the effectiveness of food reserve mechanisms for dealing with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility in those countries. We recognize that commodity diversification and value addition as well as the effective participation of the least developed countries in regional and global value chains and in international trade in agricultural products is a critical aspect of the efforts of those countries in reversing their marginalization, building productive capacities, accelerating structural transformation and generating full and productive employment and decent work for all with quick and sustainable impact on poverty eradication.

58. We reiterate our commitment to protect, restore and sustainably use terrestrial and water-related ecosystems, including forests, halting biodiversity loss, and tackling land and soil degradation and desertification. This would generate multiple benefits, including food security, improving the living conditions of affected populations, eradicating poverty and contributing to peace and security while enabling the least developed countries to effectively mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change. We will also promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including efforts to reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

Trade and investment

59. We reaffirm the pre-eminence of the World Trade Organization as the global forum for the setting and governance of trade rules. We acknowledge the contribution that the rules-based multilateral trading system has made to the strength and stability of the global economy. We reaffirm the value of the World Trade Organization's consistent practice of taking decisions through a transparent, inclusive, consensus-based, member-driven process.

60. We take note of the pledge by the members of the World Trade Organization to strengthen the multilateral trading system so that it provides a strong impetus to inclusive prosperity and welfare for all members and responds to the specific development needs of developing country members, in particular the least developed country members.

61. We reaffirm our commitment to significantly increase the share of least developed countries' trade in global trade with the aim of doubling the share of least developed countries' exports in global exports by 2020, including by broadening least developed countries' export base.

62. In that regard, we urge the least developed countries and their development partners to make use of existing initiatives and programmes, such as the relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries and on preferential rules of origin for those countries, as well as aid for trade. We will increase aid for trade support, in particular for the least developed countries; and we will strive to allocate an increasing proportion of aid for trade to the least developed countries, provided according to development cooperation effectiveness principles. We also welcome

additional cooperation among developing countries to this end. We encourage the least developed countries to mainstream trade in their national development plans. With this in mind, we welcome the extension of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries into phase two and, as the Enhanced Integrated Framework implements the reforms, agreed as necessary for its continuation, we urge members to contribute to the timely replenishment of the Enhanced Integrated Framework Trust Fund, for the effective implementation, without any disruption, of the Framework between 2016 and 2023.

63. We urge World Trade Organization members to continue their efforts to accelerate the accession of all the least developed countries engaged in negotiations for World Trade Organization membership and welcome the 2012 guidelines for the accession of the least developed countries to the Organization.

64. We call upon all partners who are World Trade Organization members to implement all of the ministerial decisions, especially those that are of benefit to the least developed countries. We also call upon development partners to continue to provide concrete support to the least developed countries for the diversification of their export base, including into dynamic sectors of world trade, and in meeting the requirements of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade of the World Trade Organization to assist them in increasing their share in world trade and enhancing domestic value added for exports.

65. We reaffirm our joint commitment to promote strategic and regulatory frameworks for FDI and other resource flows to the least developed countries that include vital policy areas such as infrastructure development, trade and trade facilitation, research and development and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms.

66. To further investment promotion, we also recommend establishing national regulatory and policy frameworks that allow businesses to innovate, invest and transform technology into employment and inclusive economic growth. We also call for greater commitment from the least developed countries and scaled-up international support for regional integration in order to expand markets, to promote trade facilitation by implementing the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, cross-border infrastructure development, regional value chains and regional cooperation, all of which will contribute to regional stability and progress. Effective partnerships between and among Governments, the private sector and civil society are particularly useful in addressing complex and interrelated challenges.

67. We recall the decision contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 67/220 of 21 December 2012 to adopt, expand and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries. We welcome the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries and the offer to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

68. We recognize that stronger and more focused policies, activities and strategies by the least developed countries, the home countries of FDI, international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, can help to substantially increase FDI flows to the least developed countries. We encourage the least

developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and to establish and maintain national investment promotion facilities, and we encourage development partners to continue to support capacity-building in the least developed countries aimed at improving their abilities to attract FDI.

69. In that regard, we invite the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to include the issue of investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries in the agenda of the Board, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of United Nations system support that can contribute to enhancing the flow of FDI to the least developed countries and the ability of those countries to attract such investment. We further invite the Economic and Social Council, at its next annual forum on financing for development follow-up, to discuss adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on the matter, including General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein. We recall that the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

70. We call upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to help the least developed countries attract and benefit from FDI, including through its Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development, its investment policy reviews, investment guides and other investment promotion activities. We encourage the least developed countries to make more use of those programmes and call upon development partners to continue to fund them on a voluntary basis. We also invite other relevant United Nations entities and international organizations to continue their support to the least developed countries in the area of investment promotion, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates.

71. The least developed countries are also encouraged to utilize existing trade and investment support mechanisms. The World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development offer several such programmes that address risk insurance and guarantees as well as technical and advisory support for investment-related negotiations and dispute resolution.

Good governance at all levels

72. We recall the objective of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enhancing good governance at all levels, by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption, and strengthening least developed country Governments' capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development. Furthering participation, empowering civil society, youth and women, and strengthening collective action will contribute to the eradication of poverty and achieving sustainable development. In that context, we encourage broad participation by the least developed countries in partnerships and other international conventions and initiatives, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We also take note of the work of the Open Government Partnership. We further call upon the least developed countries that have not yet done so to make

domestic legislation consistent with their particular obligations as members of or States parties to all relevant international agreements.

73. We recognize that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. In this regard, we acknowledge that the development challenges posed by conflict not only impede, but can reverse decades of development gains. We thus call upon the least developed countries, with the support of development partners, as appropriate, to build the resilience necessary to address the root causes of conflict in their countries and regions. We call upon the international community to support least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and in particular those suffering from internal and cross-border violence, especially the threat of violent extremism and international terrorism, with the view of achieving the realization of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. We will also take measures to ensure that women have a role in peacebuilding and State-building.

Human and social development, children and youth

74. We acknowledge that high-quality education and skills development provide the foundation for lifelong learning and broader human development. We therefore support the global commitment to provide high-quality education to all in the least developed countries, including the poorest and most vulnerable, to the end of secondary school, and reaffirm the commitment to enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training, ensuring gender equality in access. We also reaffirm that investment in human resources and institutional capacities are required to ensure a diversified and resilient economy, based on a wide range of sectors, to reduce the economic volatility of countries and enable countries to reap the demographic dividend. Technical, vocational and skills development programmes need to take into account the needs of local firms and generate skilled human resources, which can also help firms to invest in the necessary technologies for advancing in the value chain. We will continue our efforts to make further progress in ensuring gender balance in enrolment in and completion of secondary and tertiary education. In this regard, we reiterate our call to development partners to continue to provide and encourage, as appropriate, higher education institutes to allocate scholarships and placements for students and trainees from the least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics.

75. We recognize that today's generation of people under the age of 25 is the largest ever in history. Girls and boys, young women and young men are key agents of change in creating a better future and, when empowered, they have great potential to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities. We will promote and protect the rights of children and youth, ensure more opportunities for their meaningful participation and work towards ending all forms of violence and abuse against children and youth, including exploitation, trafficking, torture and other harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage. We call upon all countries to promote the engagement of children and youth as active members of the global community, now and later in life, and to ensure that no one is left behind. We call upon the least developed countries to develop policies and programmes for supporting youth access to secondary and higher education, vocational training and productive employment and health-care services, especially for young women and girls. We call upon development partners to provide financial and technical assistance to support formal and non-formal education systems, policies and programmes in the least developed countries that

provide economic opportunities and productive employment to youth, and to promote youth exchange programmes, including through virtual campuses and other networking mechanisms.

76. To enable all people to benefit from growth, we will include full and productive employment and decent work for all as a central objective in our national development strategies.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

77. We reaffirm the essential role of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights, and of full and productive employment and decent work in achieving sustainable development. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to high-quality education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, access to finance and economic opportunities and resources and political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment and decent work, leadership and decision-making at all levels. We will work for a significant increase in the investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions, including criminal and civil justice systems, in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. We will continue to support the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including through the engagement of men and boys.

Financing for development

78. We recognize the efforts of the least developed countries to enhance domestic resource generation, and we commit to supporting efforts by the least developed countries to enhance their revenue mobilization, economic growth, product diversification and domestic value addition; to broadening the tax base and continuing efforts to integrate the informal sector into the formal economy in line with country circumstances; and to enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy and more efficient tax collection and administration. We are committed to reducing corruption and increasing transparency at all levels. We reaffirm our commitment to work to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030 in order to help the least developed countries to mobilize resources.

79. We reiterate that an important use of international public finance, including ODA, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private. In this regard, we take note of such efforts as the Addis Tax Initiative. We also take note of the platform for collaboration on tax prepared by the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank Group.

80. We welcome the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, including its subcommittees.

81. We recognize that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, and that private international capital flows, particularly FDI, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts.

82. We reiterate that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial. ODA providers reaffirm their respective ODA commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries. We are

encouraged by those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries. We urge all others to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets. We welcome the decision by the European Union which reaffirms its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertakes to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda. We encourage ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries.

83. We are encouraged by those who are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries.

84. We stress the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, for the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private. We reiterate our commitment to work through existing initiatives, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. We reaffirm the importance of transparency in debt management.

85. We recognize the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how.

86. We encourage the least developed countries, with support from the international community, to develop their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation, facilitate customs services and investigate and prosecute offences to contribute to the success of efforts to deal with illicit financial flows. We also encourage international cooperation on tax matters.

87. We encourage the use of and improved access to innovative tools, such as mobile banking, payment platforms and digitalized payments, as appropriate, including by women and micro-businesses, and we recognize the role that this can play in promoting financial inclusion, as well as in reducing costs, increasing transparency, improving the speed and security of payments and opening up new markets.

88. We call for support for those partnerships and global alliances, such as the Better Than Cash Alliance and its institutional secretariat, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, that expand the reach and adoption of such tools in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Istanbul Programme of Action.

89. We welcome continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles. We will align activities with national priorities, including by reducing fragmentation, accelerating the untying of aid, particularly for the least developed countries and countries most in need. We will promote country ownership and results orientation and strengthen country systems, use programme-based approaches where appropriate,

strengthen partnerships for development, reduce transaction costs and increase transparency and mutual accountability. We will make development more effective and predictable by providing the least developed countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term.

90. We commit to pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors in support of these actions.

South-South and triangular cooperation

91. We recall that South-South cooperation plays an important role in the development of the least developed countries through its contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

92. South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. We recognize its increased importance, different history and particularities and stress that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives. It should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

93. We welcome the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development. We encourage developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.[10] We also commit to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation.

Migration and remittances

94. We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also recognize that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recall that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.

95. We will work towards reducing the average transaction cost of migrant remittances by 2030 to less than 3 per cent of the amount transferred. We are particularly concerned with the cost of remittances in certain low-volume and high-cost corridors. We will work to ensure that no remittance corridor requires charges higher than 5 per cent by 2030, mindful of the need to maintain adequate service coverage, especially for those most in need.

[10] Resolution 64/222, annex.

96. We recognize that remittances from migrant workers are typically wages transferred to families, primarily to meet part of the needs of the recipient households, and cannot be equated to other international financial flows. We will work to ensure that adequate and affordable financial services are available to migrants and their families in both home and host countries. Combining remittance receipts with broader access to other financial services can increase the impact of remittances on growth by facilitating savings and investments. We will take measures to promote the productive investment of remittances, such as in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and ensure that women and men are engaged as equal partners and beneficiaries.

97. We will support national authorities to address the most significant obstacles to the continued flow of remittances, such as the trend of banks withdrawing services, to work towards access to remittance transfer services across borders. We will increase coordination among national regulatory authorities to remove obstacles to non-bank remittance service providers accessing payment system infrastructure and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances in both source and recipient countries, including by promoting competitive and transparent market conditions.

Science, technology and innovation

98. We reaffirm our commitment to support efforts by the least developed countries to improve their capacity to develop, access and utilize critical technologies. We acknowledge that an enabling environment and relevant legal frameworks can give firms confidence to invest in advanced technologies and establish research partnerships in the least developed countries and to provide incentives for local firms to develop or adapt their own technologies. We encourage the least developed countries, with support from the international community, to enhance investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training and to ensure equal access for women and girls and encourage their participation therein. We also encourage development partners to enhance support for efforts by the least developed countries to create a successful environment for developing, attracting and utilizing new technologies and building domestic capacity and a knowledge base, including through financial and technical assistance and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms.

99. We reaffirm our commitment to fully operationalize the technology bank for the least developed countries, in view of its potential to foster productive capacity, structural transformation, poverty eradication and sustainable development. In this regard, we take note of General Assembly resolution 70/216 of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly outlined the steps necessary to launch and operationalize the technology bank, funded by voluntary contributions, by 2017, and to ensure continued support for the technology bank from all relevant stakeholders. We will avoid duplication and promote synergies between the technology bank and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and close cooperation on both technical and administrative matters with the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General of the members of the governing council of the technology bank and the establishment of a trust fund with the flexibility necessary to attract voluntary funding from Member States and other stakeholders. We emphasize that additional details about, inter alia, the specific activities the technology bank will undertake

and how those activities will be evaluated will help to mobilize voluntary assistance. We invite the governing council, with the assistance of appropriate technical experts, as needed, and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to draft a legal charter to be adopted by the General Assembly before the end of 2016 and to elaborate other detailed operational and policy documents necessary for the operationalization and sustainable functioning of the technology bank.

100. We stress that generous and sustained support will be crucial to ensure the success of the technology bank for the least developed countries. We welcome the fact that Turkey will host the technology bank in Gebze, and we call upon the Government of Turkey to continue its support for the technology bank. We urge developed and developing country partners, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and technical assistance to the technology bank to ensure its effective operation.

101. We recognize the importance of ensuring access for poor and excluded households and localities to adapted technologies that can facilitate entry to new markets and provide renewable energy sources, waste management and clean water.

Resilience-building

102. We emphasize that building resilience at the national level, as well as the subnational, community and individual levels, is critical to sustaining hard-won development gains and accelerating progress towards achieving the development aspirations set in the Istanbul Programme of Action. More investment in the capacities and institutions of local authorities, the building of livelihoods, inclusive and rapid growth, disaster preparedness, the application of information and communications technologies and science and technology, social protection and good governance will contribute to strengthening resilience in an effective manner.

103. We welcome the Paris Agreement, in which parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change and recognized that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country parties to the Framework Convention that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

104. We welcome the fact that the Paris Agreement can play an important role in the transformation to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient societies and help to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

105. We call for effective delivery on climate change commitments and access for the least developed countries to all relevant climate change-related funds, as applicable.

106. We welcome the decisions of the Board of the Green Climate Fund to aim for a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time on a grant-equivalent basis and a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries. We welcome the recent pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and call upon the developed countries to continue to provide

support to vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, to address their adaptation needs. We encourage other parties to the Framework Convention to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily.

107. We stress the importance of developing and implementing holistic disaster risk reduction strategies integrated at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and of supporting national and local capacity for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation. In this regard, we call for the continuation of the work in relevant institutions to support efforts by the least developed countries to build their national capacity to respond to various kinds of shocks, including through funds and other tools.

108. We urge both development partners and the least developed countries to make full use of various context-specific programmes and instruments that are already in place. In some instances, resilience programmes may require country-level pooled funding mechanisms that provide assistance and reduce transaction costs for a particular least developed country.

109. We underline the need to reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and to enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges by strengthening their resilience, and in this regard stress that it is important that all countries and other actors work together to further develop and implement concrete measures on an urgent basis at the national and international levels so as to build the resilience of the least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and mitigate their adverse effects, to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, to enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

110. We renew our resolve to fulfil our commitments to further implement the Istanbul Programme of Action, and we underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing the least developed countries in a concerted manner. We recognize that the way forward for crisis mitigation and resilience-building requires that coordinated, balanced and integrated actions be taken at all levels, including through the strengthening of existing initiatives, with the aim of building the resilience of the least developed countries in overcoming their vulnerabilities.

111. We decide to undertake an in-depth analysis on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for the least developed countries, at the national and international levels, with a view to building and further strengthening crisis mitigation and resilience in the least developed countries, and we request the General Assembly to determine the parameters of this analysis at its seventy-first session.

112. We stress the importance of working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding to promote social cohesion and of empowering the least developed countries to become inclusive and resilient to external and internal shocks that could result in new cycles of violence. Conflict prevention measures with adequate early warning and risk assessment tools can assist in avoiding or at least mitigating adverse impacts of shocks. We express our commitment to take early action to prevent extreme violence and armed conflict by supporting and strengthening core governance institutions, strengthening national capacities for conflict prevention and management of ongoing tensions with civil society and marginalized communities, including women and youth, facilitating dialogue and consensus-building, and mainstreaming conflict prevention and early warning in development within the United Nations system through conflict analysis and assessment.

113. We note that women and girls, especially those belonging to the poorest segments of society, are among those who are affected disproportionately during and in the aftermath of crises and disasters. We reaffirm our commitment to put in place gender-responsive policies and actions to address crises and disasters, including by ensuring women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in decision-making, building their capacity for preparedness and resilient livelihoods.

United Nations system support

114. We reiterate that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its functions to assist the Secretary-General in the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels, and should continue to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action. To this end, it should continue its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of the least developed countries, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations system, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and should continue to provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries.

115. We reiterate our request to the Secretary-General to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The coordination mechanisms available, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group, should be broadly utilized and the inter-agency consultative group should be kept active in this regard.

116. We reiterate the importance of effective linkages in the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

117. We reiterate our invitation to the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations and international financial institutions to contribute to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates. These organizations are invited to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. We are concerned that the share of expenditure for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining. We invite the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system and other multilateral organizations to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.

118. We reiterate that treating the least developed countries as a group on the basis of their low per capita income, human asset development and economic vulnerability remains the fundamental premise for special measures in their favour, and that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and

facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies. We invite the Committee for Development Policy to look into the reasons and consequences of the non-application of the least developed country category by some United Nations development system organizations and to include its findings on this matter in its annual report to the Economic and Social Council.

119. We recommit to the broadening and strengthening of the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting and in global economic governance. We invite the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the other main international regulatory standard-setting bodies to continue efforts to increase the voice of developing countries in norm-setting processes to ensure that their concerns are taken into consideration. We reiterate that more effective representation of the least developed countries in decision-making at the global level could improve the international environment for the development of the least developed countries. We also reiterate that the international economic system and architecture should be inclusive and responsive to the special development needs of the least developed countries, ensuring their effective participation, voice and representation at all levels.

Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

120. We encourage the General Assembly to consider holding the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2021.

General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 July 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.48/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

70/295. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 on the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling also its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and all its subsequent resolutions, including resolution 69/290 of 19 June 2015, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support",

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)", which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, including African countries,

Please recycle

Welcoming the adoption of Agenda 2063 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015, as the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities,

Welcoming also the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union of the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of the African Union Agenda 2063, which outlines key African flagship projects, fast-track programmes, priority areas, specific targets and African strategies and policy measures at all levels to support its implementation,

Welcoming further the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015,[1]

Recalling the political declaration on Africa's development needs, adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008,[2]

Recalling also that significant challenges remain in achieving sustainable development in Africa, as emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[3] including the importance of fulfilling all commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development,

Taking note of the declaration of the high-level meeting of African and international leaders, entitled "Toward African renaissance: renewed partnership for a unified approach to end hunger in Africa by 2025 under the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme",

Noting the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,[4] as well as the Framework for Action,[5] which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by Governments, as appropriate, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014,

Recalling its resolution 70/259 of 1 April 2016, by which it proclaimed 2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition,

Recalling also its resolution 66/293 of 17 September 2012, by which it established a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development, and looking forward to the second biennial report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session,

Noting relevant forums such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and its first high-level meeting, held in Mexico City on 15 and 16 April 2014 on the theme "Building towards an inclusive post-2015 development agenda", and looking forward to its next meeting, to be held in Nairobi from 28 November to 1 December 2016,

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[1] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[2] Resolution 63/1.

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[6]

Welcoming all efforts to stem the spread of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa, and reiterating its continued solidarity with the highly affected countries in West Africa,

Reiterating the need for the international community to implement all commitments regarding the economic and social development of Africa,

1. *Welcomes* the thirteenth consolidated report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Reaffirms its full support* for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[8]

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting the African Union Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023);

4. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the political declaration on Africa's development needs,[2] as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted as the outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008;[9]

5. *Recognizes* the progress made in the implementation of the New Partnership as well as regional and international support for the New Partnership, while acknowledging that much needs to be done in its implementation;

6. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted on 8 June 2016 at the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS,[10] and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an HIV/AIDS-, malaria- and tuberculosis-free Africa by addressing the needs of all, in particular the needs of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to scale up significantly efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened

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[6] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] A/70/175.

[8] A/57/304, annex.

[9] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[10] Resolution 70/266, annex.

global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

7. *Also takes note* of the African Union decision to extend the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa, from 2016 to 2020, to achieve full implementation, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for the response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with other international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the African Union Road Map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

8. *Further takes note* of the declaration on polio eradication in Africa, entitled "Our historic legacy to future generations", adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 14 and 15 June 2015, including the commitment to the goal of global polio eradication, and calls upon development partners, including the United Nations system, to support African efforts, including immunization and disease surveillance initiatives;

9. *Takes note* of the announcement of 29 March 2016 by the World Health Organization that the Ebola situation in West Africa no longer constituted a public health emergency of international concern, and underlines the importance of maintaining strong surveillance and response systems;

10. *Recognizes* the profound socioeconomic impact of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa, including on the capacity to provide basic services and economic activities, expresses deep concern about the potential reversal, due to the Ebola outbreak, of the gains made by the affected countries in development, peacebuilding, political stability and the reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure in recent years, and calls for effective measures and targeted investments to overcome these difficulties and to support recovery priorities, particularly in the most affected countries, in line with the outcome of the International Ebola Recovery Conference, held in New York on 10 July 2015;

11. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the Declaration on Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014;

12. *Reaffirms* that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies, and recommits to adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels, to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy and to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms;

13. *Welcomes* the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and the Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, and further welcomes the African Union strategy and road map for facilitating the realization of the 2014 Malabo Commitments on Agriculture, launched during the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in January 2015;

14. *Expresses concern* about the adverse impact of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis, including on development, and evidence of an uneven, fragile and slow recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and stability and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, excessive volatility of commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among young people, unsustainable debt in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stresses the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date;

15. *Recognizes* that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to further strengthen the recovery, which is still uneven, stresses the urgent need for full recovery and sustained and accelerated growth, which translates into new employment opportunities, secure incomes and improved livelihoods, and reaffirms the need to continue to support the special needs of Africa and to take action to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crisis on the continent;

16. *Notes* that the rapid economic growth of some developing countries has had a positive impact on the efforts of the African continent to sustain and expand growth, despite the fact that those developing countries continue to face development challenges;

17. *Expresses concern* about the increasing challenges posed by climate change, drought, land degradation, desertification, the loss of biodiversity and floods, and their negative consequences for the fight against poverty and hunger, which could pose serious additional challenges to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in Africa;

18. *Underlines* the significant potential of regional economic integration and interconnectivity to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development, and reiterates its commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and regional trade agreements;

19. *Reiterates* that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

20. *Expresses concern* at Africa's disproportionately low share of the volume of international trade, which stands at approximately 3.3 per cent, and further expresses concern at the increased debt burden of some African countries;

21. *Expresses deep concern* that official development assistance to Africa decreased in 2014, while welcoming the fact that bilateral official development assistance to Africa increased in 2015;

22. *Calls upon* developing countries and countries with economies in transition to continue their efforts to create a domestic environment conducive to encouraging entrepreneurship and attracting investments by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights, embedded in sound macroeconomic policies and institutions;

23. *Notes* that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, that it has a critical role in achieving inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, including through the promotion of job creation and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and that it contributes to the active participation of the African economies in the global economy and facilitates regional economic cooperation and integration, and in this regard calls upon, as appropriate, developed countries to continue to devise source-country measures to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment through, inter alia, the provision of export credits and other lending instruments, risk guarantees and business development services;

24. *Also notes* the importance of promoting the formalization of informal sector activities in Africa;

25. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including inclusive industrial development, and policies which seek to enhance productive capacities in Africa can generate employment and income for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

26. *Recalls its commitment* to broadening and strengthening the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance;

I

Actions by African countries and organizations

27. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to continue their efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, developing and strengthening institutions for governance, creating an environment conducive to involving the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in the New Partnership implementation process, developing innovative public-private partnerships for financing infrastructure projects and attracting foreign direct investment for development;

28. *Also welcomes* the collaboration between the African Private Sector Forum and the United Nations Global Compact, and encourages the strengthening of this partnership in conjunction with the African Union Commission in support of the development of the African private sector and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the relevant executive decisions of the African Union;

29. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts exerted by the African Union and the regional economic communities in the area of economic integration, as well as ongoing efforts by the African Union in the operationalization of the provision contained in General Assembly resolutions 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 61/296 of 17 September 2007 and 63/310 of 14 September 2009, and stresses the key role of the United Nations system in supporting the African Union in the social, economic and political fields and in the area of peace and security;

30. *Recognizes* the important role that African regional economic communities can play in the implementation of the New Partnership and Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year action plan in close cooperation with the African Union, and in this regard encourages African countries and the international community to give regional economic communities the support necessary to strengthen their capacity;

31. *Reiterates its commitment* to further strengthening the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels;

32. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its eighteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 January 2012, to strengthen intra-African trade, which plays an important role in promoting economic growth and development, and calls upon the United Nations system and development partners to continue to support the efforts of African countries, the African Union and regional economic communities to enhance intra-African trade;

33. *Also welcomes* the launch of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, comprising 26 African States members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community, as an important step towards further strengthening regional integration and the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017;

34. *Recalls* the commitment of the African leaders to Africa's political, social and economic integration agenda and to the ideal of pan-Africanism and African renaissance, as reaffirmed in the solemn declaration adopted on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

35. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the high-level events organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa during Africa Week 2015, in close partnership with the African Union Commission, the Planning and Coordination Agency of the New Partnership, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the United Nations system, on the theme "Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: moving from aspirations to reality", which aimed at popularizing Agenda 2063 in line with the deliberations of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2014, mobilizing international support for its implementation and highlighting synergies between Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[11]

[11] Resolution 70/1.

36. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to align the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa[12] with the strategic frameworks of the African Union and the New Partnership for 2014–2017 and Agenda 2063, welcomes in this regard the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session, as the successor programme to the 2006 United Nations-African Union 10-year capacity-building programme, which expires in 2016, and invites development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of necessary funds to support the implementation of its activities;

37. *Further welcomes* the commendable progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the voluntary adherence of 35 African countries to the Mechanism and the completion of the peer review process in 17 countries, welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process, and encourages further strengthening of the Mechanism process for its efficient performance;

38. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fifth ordinary session of the declaration proclaiming 2015 the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063;

39. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to proclaim 2016 the African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women, and expresses its appreciation for the continuing and increasing efforts of African countries in mainstreaming the gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership;

40. *Encourages* African countries to accelerate the achievement of the objective of food security and nutrition in Africa, welcomes the commitment made by African leaders to allocate at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to agriculture and to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness, and in this regard reaffirms its support for the commitments contained in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, under the strong leadership of African countries;

41. *Welcomes* the commendable progress made by the 44 African countries and the 4 regional economic communities that voluntarily adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and committed themselves to ensuring an annual rate of growth in agriculture of 6 per cent and to allocating at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to the agricultural sector, as appropriate, and noting with appreciation that, to date, 12 countries have reached or surpassed the 10 per cent budget allocation target, while another 13 countries are currently spending between 5 and 10 per cent;

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[12] The nine clusters comprise: infrastructure development; environment, population and urbanization; social and human development; science and technology; advocacy and communication; governance; peace and security; agriculture, food security and rural development; and industry, trade and market access.

42. *Encourages* African countries to strengthen and expand local and regional infrastructure and to continue to share best practices with a view to strengthening regional and continental integration, and in this regard notes with appreciation the work of the high-level subcommittee of the African Union on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, which seeks to further strengthen the development of infrastructure on the African continent in collaboration with relevant development partners;

43. *Also encourages* African countries to maintain the trend of increasing investment in infrastructure development, including through strengthened domestic resources mobilization, and improving the efficiency of existing infrastructure investment;

44. *Further encourages* African countries to continue their efforts in investing in education, science, technology and innovation to enhance value addition and industrial development;

II

Response of the international community

45. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

46. *Also welcomes* the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners, as well as other initiatives, emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa and the need for their effective implementation, and in this regard recognizes the important role that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can play in supporting Africa's development efforts, including in the implementation of the New Partnership, while bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation;

47. *Urges* continued support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication, hunger and malnutrition, job creation and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment, and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

48. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Africa Global Partnership Platform as a mechanism for feeding Africa's interests and perspectives into wider global processes;

49. *Expresses deep concern* about the continuing negative effects of desertification, land degradation and drought on the African continent and underlines the need for short-, medium- and long-term measures, and in this regard calls for the continued effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[13] including its 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018),[14] to address the situation;

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[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[14] A/C.2/62/7, annex.

50. *Recognizes* that Africa is one of the regions that contribute the least to climate change, is extremely vulnerable and exposed to the adverse impacts of climate change, and in this regard calls upon the international community, including developed countries, to continue to support Africa to address its adaptation needs through, inter alia, the development, transfer and deployment of technology on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the provision of adequate and predictable resources, in line with existing commitments, and highlights the need for full implementation of the agreed outcomes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[15] including the Paris Agreement;[1]

51. *Notes* the progress made at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015, and looks forward to the timely implementation of its outcomes;

52. *Reiterates* the important role of trade as an engine of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, in particular its contribution to boosting job creation, given high youth unemployment in Africa, and to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizes the need to resist protectionist tendencies;

53. *Also reiterates* the need for all countries and relevant multilateral institutions to continue efforts to enhance coherence in their trade policies towards African countries, and acknowledges the importance of efforts to fully integrate African countries into the international trading system and to build their capacity to compete through such initiatives as Aid for Trade and, given the world economic and financial crisis, the provision of assistance to address the adjustment challenges of trade liberalization;

54. *Underlines* the importance of debt crisis prevention and prudent debt management, calls for a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, and recognizes the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and debt restructuring;

55. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, is encouraged by those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, and urges all others to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the official development assistance targets;

56. *Underlines* the importance of South-South cooperation as an important element of international cooperation for development, as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, recognizes its increased importance, different history and particularities, and stresses that South-South cooperation should be seen as an expression of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, based on their shared experiences and objectives, and that it should continue

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

57. *Welcomes* the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encourages developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[16] and commits to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

58. *Considers* that innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution towards assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis and that such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, and, while highlighting the considerable progress on innovative sources of financing for development achieved to date, stresses the importance of scaling up present initiatives and developing new mechanisms, as appropriate;

59. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[17] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, transparency, accountability and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

60. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing and developing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of diseases, including of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

61. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, nutrition and food security in Africa to align their efforts to implement the commitments contained in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and the Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa, and towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and using its results

[16] Resolution 64/222, annex.

[17] A/63/539, annex.

framework, which is an integral component of the design and implementation of the national and regional investment plans of the Programme for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;[18]

62. *Also recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners to align their efforts in infrastructure investment towards supporting the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, and welcomes in this regard the convening in Dakar on 14 and 15 June 2014 of the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, which adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action to mobilize investment towards infrastructure development projects, starting with 16 bankable projects identified from the priority action plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, and calls upon development partners to support the implementation of the Dakar Agenda;

63. *Welcomes* the first Global Infrastructure Forum, held in Washington, D.C., on 16 April 2016, and in this regard recalls, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[19] that a greater range of voices should be heard, particularly from developing countries, to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps, in particular in, inter alia, African countries, and that it will highlight opportunities for investment and cooperation and work to ensure that investments are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable;

64. *Invites* all of Africa's development partners, in particular developed countries, to support the efforts of African countries to promote and maintain macroeconomic stability, to help African countries to attract investments and promote policies conducive to attracting domestic and foreign investment, for example by encouraging private financial flows and supporting small and medium-size enterprises, to promote investment by their private sectors in Africa, to encourage and facilitate the development and transfer of technology to African countries, on mutually agreed terms, and to assist in strengthening human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the New Partnership, consistent with its priorities and objectives and with a view to furthering Africa's development at all levels;

65. *Reiterates* the commitment to redouble efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

66. *Stresses* that the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and post-conflict consolidation are essential for the achievement of the objectives of the New Partnership, and welcomes in this regard the cooperation and support granted by the United Nations and development partners to the African regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership;

67. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in assisting post-conflict countries in Africa, particularly the six African countries for which the Commission has established country-specific configurations;

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[18] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[19] Resolution 69/313, annex.

68. *Urges* the international community to continue to give due attention to Africa's priorities, including the New Partnership, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

69. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership and to place greater emphasis on monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of the effectiveness of its activities in support of the New Partnership;

70. *Emphasizes* African ownership of the African Peer Review Mechanism process, and invites the international community to support the efforts of African countries, at their request, in implementing their respective national programmes of action arising from the process;

71. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities;

72. *Welcomes* the establishment of a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made relating to Africa's development, and invites Member States and all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa, and all relevant international and regional organizations, to contribute to the effectiveness and reliability of the review process by cooperating in the collection of data and the evaluation performance;

73. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the basis of inputs from Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other stakeholders in the New Partnership.

112th plenary meeting
25 July 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 August 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 175

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 July 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.57)*]

70/296. Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/263 of 27 April 2016, in which it invited the Secretary-General to take steps to conclude an agreement concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration and to submit the negotiated draft agreement to the General Assembly for approval,

Taking note of resolution No. 1317 of 30 June 2016 of the Council of the International Organization for Migration, by which the Council approved the draft Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration,

Having considered the negotiated draft Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration,[1]

1. *Approves* the draft Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Notes* article 12 of the Agreement, which provides that expenses resulting from any cooperation or provision of services pursuant to the Agreement shall be subject to separate arrangements between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to invite the Director General of the International Organization for Migration to sign the Agreement with him at the one-day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, to be held on 19 September 2016.

112th plenary meeting
25 July 2016

[1] A/70/976, annex I.

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Annex

Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Constitution of the International Organization for Migration,

Recognizing the need to take into account migration and human mobility in the activities of the two Organizations and for close cooperation among all relevant organizations to strengthen their efforts in coordinating their respective activities related to migration and human mobility,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/4 of 16 October 1992 inviting the International Organization for Migration to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer,

Recalling also the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration of 25 June 1996,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 51/148 of 13 December 1996 on the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration,

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration regarding a Global Safety and Security Management Partnership of 25 June 2013,

Desiring to establish a mutually beneficial relationship whereby the discharge of respective responsibilities of the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration may be facilitated,

Taking note of the International Organization for Migration Council Resolution No. 1309 of 24 November 2015, which, inter alia, requested the Director General of the International Organization for Migration to develop with the United Nations a way in which the legal basis of the relationship between the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations could be improved,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 70/263 of 27 April 2016 which, inter alia, recognized the need to establish a closer relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration and invited the Secretary-General to take steps to conclude an agreement concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration and to submit the negotiated draft agreement to the General Assembly for approval,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Purpose of the Agreement

The present Agreement defines the terms on which the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall be brought into relationship with each other in order to strengthen their cooperation and enhance their ability to fulfil their respective mandates in the interest of migrants and their Member States.

Article 2
Principles

1. The United Nations recognizes the International Organization for Migration as an organization with a global leading role in the field of migration. The United Nations recognizes that the Member States of the International Organization for Migration regard it, as per the International Organization for Migration Council Resolution No. 1309, as the global lead agency on migration. The foregoing shall be without prejudice to the mandates and activities of the United Nations, its Offices, Funds and Programmes in the field of migration.

2. The United Nations recognizes the International Organization for Migration as an essential contributor in the field of human mobility, in the protection of migrants, in operational activities related to migrants, displaced people and migration-affected communities, including in the areas of resettlement and returns, and in mainstreaming migration in development plans.

3. The United Nations recognizes that the International Organization for Migration, by virtue of its Constitution, shall function as an independent, autonomous and non-normative international organization in the working relationship with the United Nations established by this Agreement, noting its essential elements and attributes defined by the Council of the International Organization for Migration as per its Council Resolution No. 1309.

4. The International Organization for Migration recognizes the responsibilities of the United Nations under its Charter and the mandates and responsibilities of other United Nations organizations and subsidiary organs and agencies, including in the field of migration.

5. The International Organization for Migration undertakes to conduct its activities in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with due regard to the policies of the United Nations furthering those Purposes and Principles and to other relevant instruments in the international migration, refugee and human rights fields.

6. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration will cooperate and conduct their activities without prejudice to the rights and responsibilities of one another under their respective constituent instruments.

Article 3
Cooperation and coordination

1. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, recognizing the need to work jointly to achieve mutual objectives, and with a view to facilitating the effective exercise of their responsibilities, agree to cooperate closely within their respective mandates and to consult on matters of mutual interest and concern. To that end, the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall cooperate with each other in accordance with the provisions of their respective constituent instruments.

2. The International Organization for Migration agrees to participate in, and to cooperate with, any body or bodies that have been established or may be established by the United Nations for the purpose of facilitating such cooperation and coordination at the global, regional or country level, in particular through membership in:

(*a*) The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies (the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level

Committee on Management (including the Inter-Agency Security Management Network), and the United Nations Development Group and its regional and country teams);

(*b*) The Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

(*c*) The Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs;

(*d*) The Global Migration Group;

(*e*) Country-level security management teams.

The International Organization for Migration agrees to participate in such bodies in accordance with their established rules of procedures and to contribute to their cost-shared budgets, as per established cost-sharing arrangements.

3. The International Organization for Migration may also consult with appropriate bodies established by the United Nations on matters within their competence and on which the International Organization for Migration requires expert advice. The United Nations, on its part, agrees to take such action as may be necessary to facilitate such consultation.

4. The United Nations bodies referred to above may also consult with the International Organization for Migration on all matters within its competence and on which they require expert advice. The International Organization for Migration, on its part, agrees to take such action as may be necessary to facilitate such consultation.

5. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, within their respective competencies and in accordance with the provisions of their respective constituent instruments, shall cooperate by providing each other, upon request, with such information and assistance as either organization may require in the exercise of its responsibilities.

6. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration recognize the desirability of cooperation in the statistical field within the framework of their respective mandates.

7. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration recognize the necessity of achieving, where applicable, effective coordination of the activities and services of the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration with a view to avoiding duplication of their activities and services.

Article 4
Reports to the United Nations

The International Organization for Migration may, if it decides it to be appropriate, submit reports on its activities to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General.

Article 5
Reciprocal representation

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be entitled to attend and to participate in relation to matters of common interest, without vote and in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure, in sessions of the Council of the International Organization for Migration. The Secretary-General shall also be invited, as

appropriate, to attend and participate without vote in such other meetings as the International Organization for Migration may convene at which matters of interest to the United Nations are under consideration. The Secretary-General may, for the purposes of this paragraph, designate any person as his or her representative.

2. The Director General of the International Organization for Migration shall be entitled to attend plenary meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations for the purposes of consultations. The Director General shall be entitled to attend and participate without vote in meetings of the Committees of the General Assembly and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, and, as appropriate and in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure, meetings of subsidiary organs of the Assembly and the Council. The Director General may, at the invitation of the Security Council, attend its meetings to supply it with information or give it other assistance with regard to matters within the competence of the International Organization for Migration. The Director General may, for the purposes of this paragraph, designate any person as his or her representative.

3. Written statements presented by the United Nations to the International Organization for Migration for distribution shall be distributed by the Administration of the International Organization for Migration to all members of the appropriate organ or organs of the International Organization for Migration. Written statements presented by the International Organization for Migration to the United Nations for distribution shall be distributed by the Secretariat of the United Nations to all members of the appropriate organ or organs of the United Nations.

Article 6
Proposal of agenda items

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations may propose agenda items for consideration by the International Organization for Migration. In such cases, the United Nations shall notify the Director General of the agenda item or items concerned, and the Director General shall, in accordance with his or her authority and the relevant rules of procedure, bring any such agenda item or items to the attention of the appropriate governing body of the International Organization for Migration.

2. The Director General of the International Organization for Migration may propose agenda items for consideration by the United Nations. In such cases, the International Organization for Migration shall notify the Secretary-General of the agenda item or items concerned, and the Secretary-General shall, in accordance with his or her authority and the relevant rules of procedure, bring any such item or items to the attention of the relevant principal organ of the United Nations or such other organ or organs of the United Nations as may be appropriate.

Article 7
Exchange of information and documents

1. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall arrange for the exchange of information, publications and documents of mutual interest.

2. The International Organization for Migration shall, to the extent practicable, furnish the United Nations, upon its request, with special studies or information relating to matters within the competence of the United Nations.

3. The United Nations shall likewise, to the extent practicable, furnish the International Organization for Migration, upon its request, with special studies or information relating to matters within the competence of the International Organization for Migration.

4. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall make every effort to achieve maximum cooperation with a view to avoiding duplication in the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of information related to matters of mutual interest. They shall strive, where appropriate, to combine their efforts to secure the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of such information.

Article 8
Administrative cooperation

The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall consult, whenever required, concerning the most efficient use of facilities, staff and services with a view to avoiding the establishment and operation of overlapping facilities and services. They shall also consult to explore the possibility of establishing common facilities or services in specific areas, with due regard to cost savings.

Article 9
Cooperation between the secretariats

The Secretariat of the United Nations and the Administration of the International Organization for Migration shall maintain a close working relationship in accordance with such arrangements as may be agreed upon from time to time between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration. Similar close working relationships between the secretariats of the other organizations within the United Nations system shall also be maintained in accordance with arrangements between the International Organization for Migration and the organizations concerned.

Article 10
Personnel arrangements

The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration agree to consult whenever necessary concerning matters of common interest relating to the terms and conditions of employment of staff as well as to cooperate regarding the exchange of personnel based on conditions contained in supplementary arrangements concluded pursuant to Article 14 of this Agreement.

Article 11
United Nations laissez-passer

Members of the staff of the International Organization for Migration shall be entitled, in accordance with such administrative arrangements as may be concluded between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, to use the laissez-passer of the United Nations as a valid travel document where such use is recognized by States in agreements defining the privileges and immunities of the International Organization for Migration.

Article 12
Expenses

Expenses resulting from any cooperation or provision of services pursuant to this Agreement shall be subject to separate arrangements between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration.

Article 13
Protection of confidentiality

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be so construed as to require either the United Nations or the International Organization for Migration to furnish any material, data and information the disclosure of which could, in its judgement, violate its obligation under its constituent instrument or policies on confidentiality to protect such material, data and information.

2. In case confidential material, data or information is provided, the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall ensure the appropriate protection of such material, data and information, in accordance with their constituent instruments and policies on confidentiality or in accordance with such supplementary arrangements as may be concluded between them for this purpose in accordance with Article 14 of this Agreement.

Article 14
Supplementary arrangements for the implementation of the present Agreement

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration may, for the purpose of implementing the present Agreement, make such supplementary arrangements as may be found appropriate.

Article 15
Amendments

The present Agreement may be amended by agreement between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration. Any such amendment shall be approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and by the Council of the International Organization for Migration. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall notify each other in writing of the date of such approval, and the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later of the said approvals.

Article 16
Entry into force

1. The present Agreement shall be approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and by the Council of the International Organization for Migration. The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration shall notify each other in writing of the date of such approval. The Agreement shall thereafter enter into force upon signature.

2. Upon its entry into force, this Agreement supersedes and replaces the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration of 25 June 1996.

In witness thereof, the undersigned have signed the present Agreement.

Signed this xxth day of xx 2016 at xxx in two originals in the English language.

For the United Nations:	For the International Organization for Migration:
Ban Ki-Moon Secretary-General	William Lacy Swing Director General

United Nations A/RES/70/297

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 August 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 125

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 July 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.58)*]

70/297. Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/183 of 17 December 2015, entitled "Global health and foreign policy: strengthening the management of international health crises", in which it decided to hold a high-level meeting in 2016 on antimicrobial resistance and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to determine options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, including potential deliverables,

Mindful of the need to summon and maintain strong national, regional and international political commitment to addressing antimicrobial resistance comprehensively and multisectorally, and to increase and improve awareness of antimicrobial resistance,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Emphasizing the important role and the responsibilities of Governments, as well as the role of relevant intergovernmental organizations, particularly the World Health Organization within its mandate and in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health, as appropriate, in responding to the challenges of antimicrobial resistance, and the essential need for multisectoral and cross-sectoral efforts and the engagement of all relevant sectors of society, such as human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, finance, environment and consumers, to generate an effective response, including towards a "One Health" approach,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution 68.7 of 26 May 2015, entitled "Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance",[2] which reflects a global consensus that antimicrobial resistance poses a significant public health challenge, and

[1] A/70/790.

[2] See World Health Organization, document WHA68/2015/REC/1.

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emphasizing the paramount significance of achieving the five strategic objectives of the global action plan,[3]

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held in New York on 21 September 2016, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.;

2. *Encourages* all Member and observer States to participate in the high-level meeting at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government;

3. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements of the high-level meeting shall be as follows:

(*a*) The opening segment will include statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health, each speaking from his or her perspective and in accordance with the mission and mandate that each institution represents;

(*b*) Two interactive hour-long thematic panels will be held, each composed of up to six discussants, with three Heads of State and Government and three relevant stakeholders each, bearing in mind equitable gender, level of development and geographical representation, on the following themes:

Panel 1: Relevance of addressing antimicrobial resistance for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the health-related Goals

Panel 2: Addressing the multisectoral implications and implementation challenges of antimicrobial resistance in a comprehensive manner

(*c*) Panels 1 and 2 will be held during the morning session, in parallel with the plenary segment;

(*d*) The plenary segment for general discussions during the morning and the afternoon sessions will comprise three-minute interventions by Member and observer States and observers. A list of speakers will be established in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly;

(*e*) The closing segment by the President of the General Assembly will comprise summaries of the thematic panel discussions and concluding remarks;

4. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the thematic panels, taking into account the views of Member States and equitable gender, level of development and geographical representation, for the participation of Heads of State and Government, as well as of relevant civil society, private sector, academia and other stakeholders with expertise in antimicrobial resistance;

[3] Ibid., annex 3.

5. *Requests* the facilitator of the consultations to lead an informal interactive dialogue with relevant civil society and private sector stakeholders with expertise in antimicrobial resistance, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting;

6. *Invites* all relevant United Nations system entities, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as regional and subregional organizations, to participate in the high-level meeting, contributing as appropriate, and to consider initiatives in support of its preparatory process;

7. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations and related entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;

8. *Invites* non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council with relevant expertise to register with the Secretariat to attend the meeting;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as appropriate, including in their national delegations parliamentarians and civil society, private sector, academia and other stakeholders working on antimicrobial resistance;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector with expertise in antimicrobial resistance who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive panel discussions, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;[4]

11. *Decides* that the high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented declaration, agreed by consensus through intergovernmental consultations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly.

112th plenary meeting
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[4] The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

United Nations A/RES/70/298

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 August 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 124

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 July 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.59 and Add.1)*]

70/298. Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which provides a comprehensive overview of interaction between the United Nations and the global parliamentary community and attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an observer in the General Assembly and the world organization of national parliaments, over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Noting the outcomes of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015, which affirm the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,[2] which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General

[1] A/70/917.
[2] A/51/402, annex.
[3] Resolution 55/2.
[4] Resolution 60/1.

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Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, 61/6 of 20 October 2006 and 63/24 of 18 November 2008,

Recalling and further endorsing its resolutions 65/123 of 13 December 2010, 66/261 of 29 May 2012 and 68/272 of 19 May 2014, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations to correspond to major United Nations conferences and events such as the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the recent special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and the high-level meeting of the Assembly on HIV/AIDS,

Welcoming also the convening of a parliamentary parallel event by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and by the United Nations at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya from 27 to 29 May 2016,

Recognizing in particular the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[6] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[7] and in support of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[8]

Recognizing the growing role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs in providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations officials, including on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reviewing implementation of international commitments, facilitating closer ties between United Nations country teams and national parliaments and helping to shape parliamentary input to major United Nations processes,

Recognizing also the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of gender equality, the empowerment of women and combating violence against women, and the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

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[5] Resolution 70/1.

[6] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[8] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Taking note of the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enhance cooperation in support of the implementation of international obligations in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament,

Taking note also of the work carried out upon request by agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, in support of national parliaments around the world,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both national and global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, climate change, international law, human rights and gender issues, democracy and good governance, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;[1]

3. *Also encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of dialogue among civilizations, culture, education, information and communications technologies, disaster risk reduction and financing for development;

4. *Encourages* the continued active involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizes the importance of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union continuing to work closely together with a view to promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national level and the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the global level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[5]

5. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen cooperation by engaging parliamentarians in efforts to maintain support for the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements;

6. *Takes note* of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, held at United Nations Headquarters from 31 August to 2 September 2015, which, inter alia, provided a high-level parliamentary contribution to the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda;

7. *Welcomes* the practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the youth forum of the Economic and Social Council, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

8. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences and in more closely linking the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to the main United Nations processes, so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider applying the practice of the joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union parliamentary hearing to other parliamentary meetings convened in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and processes, such as the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to including the outcome of these parliamentary meetings as a formal contribution to the respective United Nations processes;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Human Rights Council, notably by providing a more robust parliamentary contribution to the universal periodic review, and to the work of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies along the lines of the cooperation developed in recent years between the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national parliaments whose countries are under review;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in accordance with their respective mandates and, upon request, in such areas as gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in conflict prevention and peace processes, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, increasing the representation of women in parliaments, combating violence against women and implementing relevant United Nations resolutions;

12. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, through the participation of parliamentarians, in convening a regular parliamentary side event on the work of parliaments to institutionalize the Sustainable Development Goals;

13. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enhance their cooperation in supporting Governments in facilitating the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop closer cooperation with parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;

15. *Takes note* of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments, pioneered by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to further strengthening the capacities of parliaments to perform their functions;

16. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop, within their mandates and at the request of national authorities, a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, through appropriate mechanisms, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness, where applicable;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to help to facilitate greater South-South and triangular cooperation between parliaments and parliamentarians, within existing resources, in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

18. *Encourages* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to avail themselves more systematically of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy;

19. *Calls for* a regular annual exchange between the senior leadership of the United Nations and that of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations, enhancing coordination in the cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations and helping to forge a strategic partnership between the two organizations;

20. *Welcomes* the new cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which reflects progress and developments over past years and places the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a stronger footing;

21. *Decides*, in recognition of the significant cooperation and enhanced engagement among United Nations entities and the global parliamentary community in implementing their shared global objectives, to strengthen the modalities of this cooperation and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report under this item.

112th plenary meeting
25 July 2016

United Nations A/RES/70/299

General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29 July 2016

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.60)*]

70/299. Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and reaffirming our unwavering commitment to achieving this Agenda and utilizing it to the full to transform our world for the better by 2030,

Reaffirming also that in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Member States committed to engaging in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda in accordance with agreed guiding principles, including those set out in paragraph 74 of resolution 70/1, and asserted that the high-level political forum on sustainable development would have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates,

Recalling its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda),

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level;[1]

2. *Decides* that, for the purposes of the thematic reviews of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the sequence of themes for each four-year cycle of the forum shall reflect the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals and the three dimensions of sustainable

[1] A/70/684.

[2] Resolution 70/1.

Please recycle

development, including cross-cutting issues as well as new and emerging issues, and will serve as the framework for reviewing all 17 Goals;

3. *Also decides*, therefore, that, for the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council,[1] the themes shall be:

(*a*) For 2017: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world;

(*b*) For 2018: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies;

(*c*) For 2019: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality;

4. *Further decides* that the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, shall discuss a set of Goals and their interlinkages, including, if appropriate, with other Goals, at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all Goals over the course of a four-year cycle, with means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, reviewed annually;

5. *Decides* that, for the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the sets of Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth shall be:

(*a*) In 2017: Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14;

(*b*) In 2018: Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15;

(*c*) In 2019: Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16;

6. *Also decides* that the Economic and Social Council shall ensure the alignment of its annual main themes and the corresponding annual themes of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Council, to foster coherence;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the preparations for the voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2016, urges that experience gained from this and future sessions be taken into consideration in the development of new and flexible arrangements for the preparation of subsequent sessions, as appropriate, bearing in mind that their aim is to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and encourages Member States to involve stakeholders in the national voluntary reviews in accordance with paragraphs 78 and 79 of resolution 70/1;

8. *Takes note* of the support provided to Member States preparing for voluntary national reviews, and requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to encourage voluntary national reviews by all countries, including countries in special situations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update, as appropriate and taking into account feedback from countries participating in the high-level political forum, the voluntary common reporting guidelines as provided for in the annex to the report of

[1] Noting that the Economic and Social Council has decided that the theme for the high-level political forum in 2016 is "Ensuring that no one is left behind".

the Secretary-General, and to make them available to Member States as a suggested tool in the preparations for voluntary national reviews;

10. *Encourages* Member States to identify the most suitable regional or subregional forums and formats, where appropriate, as a further means of contributing to the follow-up and review at the high-level political forum, recognizing the need to avoid duplication, and welcomes the steps taken in this regard;

11. *Reaffirms* paragraph 11 of resolution 67/290, while also recognizing the challenges facing countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and supporting the principle of leaving no one behind, and that the meetings of the high-level political forum will provide for effective linkages with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

12. *Encourages*, in the organization of the meetings of the high-level political forum, consideration of the use of web-based interfaces as an additional means of supporting effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization in accordance with the modalities on the participation of stakeholders in resolution 67/290, and reiterates the call to major groups and stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13. *Reaffirms* that the meetings of the high-level political forum will be informed by an annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals and the quadrennial *Global Sustainable Development Report*, as well as all other relevant inputs;

14. *Underscores* that all inputs to the high-level political forum shall be made available and easily accessible utilizing existing web-based platforms;

15. *Encourages* coherence of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council, the specialized agencies and the functional commissions of the Council, and other intergovernmental bodies and forums with the work of the high-level political forum towards the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, urges that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review take into account the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard takes note of the ongoing work of the Assembly and its Main Committees, the Council and its functional and regional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums on the review of their working methods and agendas in order to ensure that they address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within their respective areas of expertise and mandates, while avoiding duplication;

16. *Reaffirms* paragraph 23 of resolution 67/290, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and internal coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, considering the need to avoid overlap in its work and ensuring that the work of the Department is organized in an integrated, cohesive, coordinated and collaborative manner, in order that the Department as a whole can provide support to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, including to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the organization of the segments of its session and the high-level political forum;

17. *Decides* to convene the biennial Development Cooperation Forum prior to the high-level political forum, and invites the Economic and Social Council to consider timing its engagement with various intergovernmental bodies in order to support their contribution to the high-level political forum;

18. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to jointly convene the high-level segment of the Council session and the three ministerial days of the high-level political forum, meeting under the auspices of the Council, in order to avoid duplication, enhance efficiency and strengthen complementarity and synergy;

19. *Decides* that the meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and those under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council shall be closely coordinated to ensure coherence and provide for mutually reinforcing linkages, especially when it is deemed appropriate to convene the forum under the auspices of the Council in the same year that it is convened under the auspices of the Assembly in order to provide necessary space for the conduct of voluntary national reviews and thematic reviews, and in this connection also decides that the forum shall have only one negotiated political declaration, covering the different and complementary functions of both sessions of the forum when the forum is convened twice in the same year;

20. *Reaffirms* its decision, as provided in resolution 67/290, that the outcome of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council shall result in a negotiated ministerial declaration for inclusion in the report of the Council to the General Assembly, except as otherwise provided, and invites the President of the Council, in consultation with the Bureau of the Council, to prepare a factual summary to reflect the discussions of the meeting;

21. *Decides* to review progress in implementing the present resolution and resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum at its seventy-fourth session, in order to benefit from lessons learned in the first cycle of the forum as well as from other processes under the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council related to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

114th plenary meeting
29 July 2016